

In the Claims:

(Please amend the claims as indicated.)

1. (Original) A theft deterrent backpack comprising:

at least two panels forming a main compartment, the at least two panels including a back panel and a second panel, other than the back panel; and

a releasable securing device for accessing the main compartment, the releasable securing device having a beginning end and a terminating end, the terminating end being disposed on the back panel and the beginning end being disposed on the second panel.

2. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 1, wherein the second panel is a front panel.

3. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 2, wherein the backpack further includes a side panel and the releasable securing device extends across at least a portion of the side panel.

4. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 2, wherein the backpack further includes a bottom panel and the releasable securing device extends across at least a portion of the bottom panel.

5. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 1, wherein the second panel is a side panel.

6. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 1, wherein the second panel is a bottom panel.

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7. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 1, wherein the releasable securing device is a zipper chain.

8. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 1, wherein the releasable securing device is disposed substantially longitudinally, when the backpack is held substantially upright.

9. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 1, wherein the releasable securing device is disposed substantially laterally, when the backpack is held substantially upright.

10. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 1, wherein the releasable securing device extends at least substantially halfway along the back panel of the backpack when the backpack is held substantially upright.

11. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 1, wherein the releasable securing device is adapted to extend sufficiently along the back panel of the backpack so that the terminating end rests against a wearer's body when worn.

12. (Original) A theft deterrent backpack comprising:

at least two panels forming a main compartment, one of the panels being a back panel, a second panel being other than the back panel; and

a zipper chain for accessing the main compartment, the zipper chain having a beginning end and a terminating end, the zipper chain being disposed so that the terminating end is disposed on the back panel and the beginning end is disposed on the second panel.

13. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack in accordance with claim 12, wherein the second panel is a front panel.

14. (Currently Amended) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 13, wherein the backpack further includes a side panel and the ~~releasable securing device~~ zipper chain extends across at least a portion of the side panel.

15. (Currently Amended) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 13, wherein the backpack further includes a bottom panel and the ~~releasable securing device~~ zipper chain extends across at least a portion of the bottom panel.

16. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack in accordance with claim 12, wherein the second panel is a side panel.

17. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack in accordance with claim 12, wherein the second panel is a bottom panel.

18. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 12, wherein the zipper chain is disposed substantially longitudinally, when the backpack is held substantially upright.

19. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 12, wherein the zipper chain is disposed substantially laterally, when the backpack is held substantially upright.

20. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 12, wherein the zipper chain extends at least substantially halfway along the back panel of the backpack when the backpack is held substantially upright.

21. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 12, wherein the zipper chain is adapted to extend sufficiently down the back panel of the backpack so that the terminating end rests against a wearer's body when worn.

22. (Original) A theft deterrent backpack comprising:

a main compartment formed by a plurality of panels, the plural panels including at least a front panel and a back panel; and

a releasable securing device for accessing the main compartment, the releasable securing device extending along at least two of the plural panels.

23. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 22, wherein the plural panels includes a back panel and a second panel, other than the back panel.

24. (Original) The theft deterrent backpack according to claim 23, wherein the releasable securing device has a beginning end and a terminating end, the terminating end being disposed on the back panel and the beginning end being disposed on the second panel.

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